

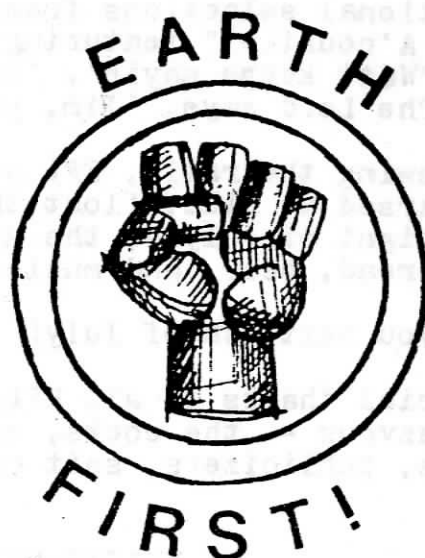
EARTH FIRST!

LUGHNASAD, August 1, 1981
Volume 1, Number 7



200 CELEBRATE 4TH OF JULY WITH EARTH FIRST!

Two hundred EARTH FIRSTers celebrated the 4th of July in traditional American fashion with waving flags; fancy oratory; stirring songs; red, white, and blue bunting; and lots of beer (Eileen Key of Portland figured up that we drank 2,500 cans of beer during the weekend!). The festivities began at the Round River Rendezvous on the evening of July 3, at our campsite on the Colorado River, with beans and Navajo fry bread, beer, and good music from Johnny Sagebrush and friends on flutes, harmonicas, banjos, and guitars.



The next morning at Panorama Point in Arches National Park, the faithful gathered with their flags and posters (Mothers for Wilderness, Only Wimps are Against Wilderness, Wilderness is America) for the Sagebrush Patriot Rally. Johnny Sagebrush acted as Master of Ceremonies and started off the show with a couple of songs from his Little Green Songbook. Utah guide and outfitter, Ken (Seldom Seen) Sleight, followed to read a message from Ed Abbey (Help the handicapped - Donate brains to Jim Watt) and gave his own stirring thoughts on the fight against Glen Canyon Dam and the current rape of southeastern Utah.

Dave Foreman ranted and raved, drawing parallels between the Tories who supported King George during the American Revolution and the Reagan Administration and so-called Sagebrush Rebels (Sagebrush Tories) of today. "Wilderness is America. What can be more patriotic than the love of the land? We will be Americans only as long as there is wilderness. Wilderness is our true Bill of Rights, the true repository of our freedoms, the true home of liberty."

Art Goodtimes, a Colorado poet, read a prayer by award-winning poet, Gary Snyder, and then held the group spellbound with his dramatic reading of Morning Singer's "Uranium Boy." Throughout the rally, featured guest speaker California Senator Sam Hayakawa, slept in his chair on the stage -- a flat-bed truck decorated with flags and red, white, and blue bunting.

Finally, the star of the show, Interior Secretary, James Watt, was carried to the stage by his serfs in the BLM, Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service and Department of the Interior. Watt tossed Coors Light beer cans to his cheering, adoring fans. Johnny Sagebrush presented Watt with an award making him the Honorary Membership Chairman of EARTH FIRST!. Watt accepted the award and opened his heart to the group, saying, "I intend to make the environment the Vietnam of the Ray-Gun Administration. Bring it home as it were." He concluded on an inspirational note, stating, "I will work diligently to balloon the membership of EARTH FIRST! to three million by the end of the Ray-Gun Administration or the end of the world, whichever comes first."

The legendary outlaw singer, Johnny Sagebrush, concluded the rally with additional selections from the Little Green Songbook -- including "Watt Went A'courtin'" featuring the words:

"Watt keeps sayin', 'Praise the Lord.'

The Lord says, 'Jim, you've gone overboard.'"

Following the rally, EF! bumperstickers and t-shirts were sold and folks dispersed to hike, float the Colorado, or lay in the shade and drink beer. The night of July 4, the Round River Rendezvous continued with more beans, fry bread, beer, and music.

See you next 4th of July!

(Special thanks to all EF!ers who participated and helped in the rally and rendezvous -- the cooks, musicians, decorators, trash collectors, stage hands, publicizers, shit can donators, etc., etc., etc.)

WHAT'S NEXT...AN EARTH FIRST! BEER?

The Sagebrush Patriot Rally was characterized by high spirits, hot sun, good music, and lots of beer. LOTS of beer. With about two hundred people camping along the Colorado River for two days, each drinking -- by conservative estimate -- six to ten beers per day, that adds up to between 1,800 to 3,000 cans of beer quaffed over the weekend. Of course, Johnny Sagebrush's contribution to that total probably pushed the average up even higher.

The beer cans were collected in big garbage sacks and recycled...Where the beer was "recycled" is hard to say due to the elusive nature of the porta-johns. (But they were free, right Dave?) All this beer drinking leads one to conclude that EF! should either be sponsored by a beer company, or even better, make its own. cheers!

Eileen Key
Portland, Oregon

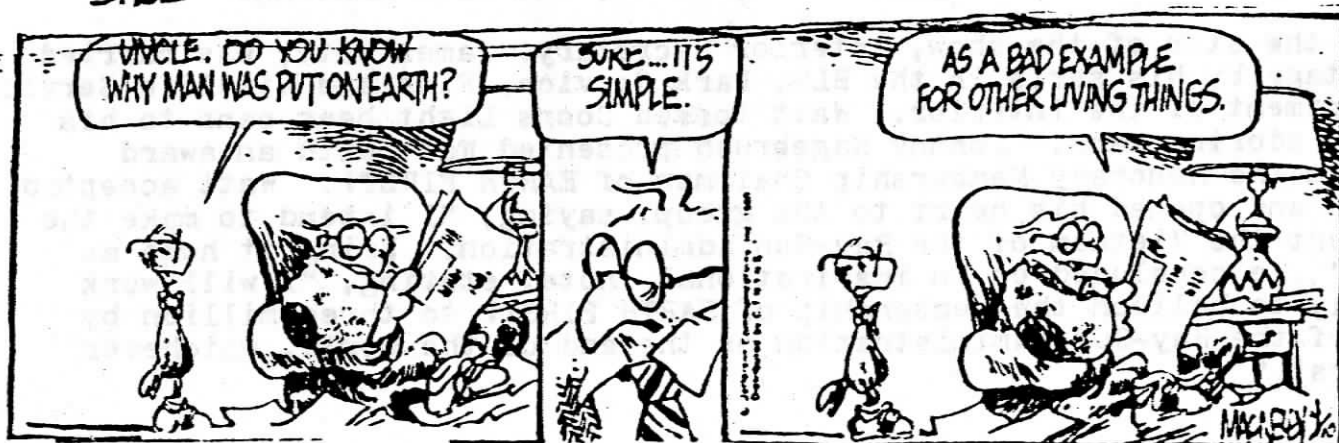
"EARTH FIRST! is the Marion Ravenwood of the environmental movement."

Indiana Jones

"EARTH FIRST! is the Indiana Jones of the environmental movement."

Marion Ravenwood

SHDE



.S. Amphibian Force

he Bullfrog Sat

On the Lily Pad, So Glad
That it was a United States
Frog - Fat, There on the
Lily Pad feeding so fast
and gluttony on all the ponds
Resources...

Devouring the Insects,
"Friendly Frog" Ruled
The Lily Pads,

Made Everyone feel as
Though they too were glad,
Consuming

Fat
Ever Growing
Greed

The Cancer Spread Fast
In that Colony
Among the Lily Pads,

Where all the Insects
Fell Victim to the
Slimy Tongue of the
U.S. Bullfrog who yelled
"Greed is my Compatriot

IGNORANCE my Watchword,
Satan, just another guy
To do business with
On Sunday Afternoon
Sometime after Church
Is over when we can
Relax after Tithe..."

Pet Bullfrog

Leaped upon command over
Vast legions of the earth's
Surface sucking all in with
An inuendo of
Galump Galump
For vistas without a look within
The Bullfrog crawls from
Sea to Land but only
Fucks in the water.

Wayne Williams
The Black Apple Institute
Way out west in Petaluma

Dear Earth Firsters!

I was delighted to learn that there was a super radical environmental activist group until I took the time to read your newsletters. You are certainly not radical at all in my book. You are merely resuggesting tired cliches torn from the pages of the sixties. Repeating over and over as if it were a cheer at Ecology High, "Save the Whales." You have not kept up with the trends. There are a handful of us that think differently. Today's environmentalist is not a "burnt out buckaroo" to use your words; today's environmentalist is a BORN AGAIN environmentalist to use the words of Mr. Falwell.

What I am about to suggest will be considered heresy by both the extreme right and extreme left as it borrows from both, but takes orders from neither. How can you accept the new environmental ethic into your heart? Read the following and see if you agree.

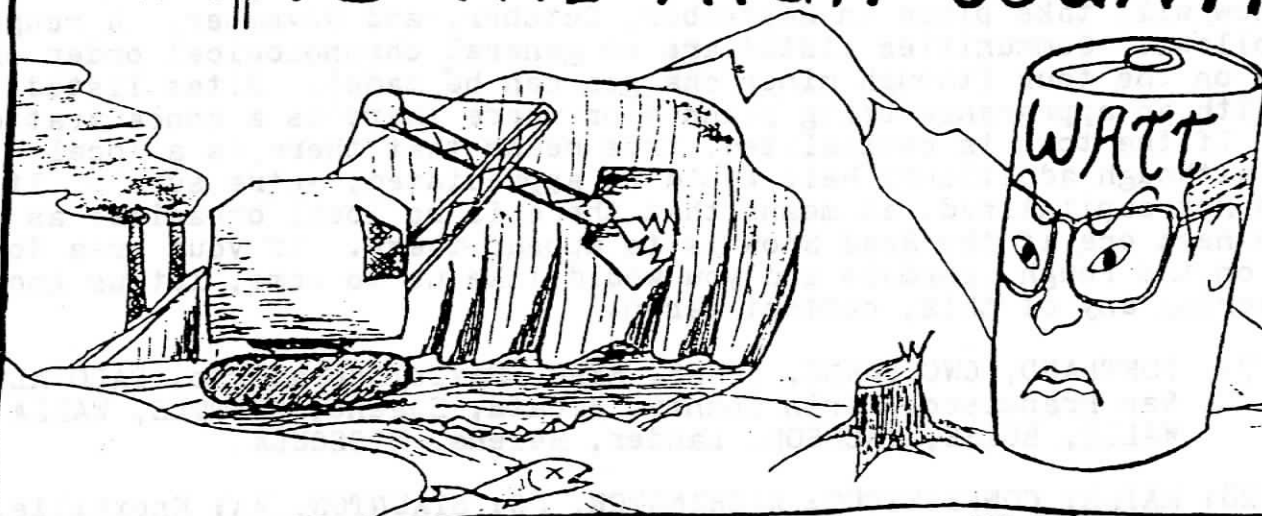
• The basic philosophy here is that conventional wisdom as applied to conservation issues has not worked. Something new needs to be done. Not kicking at dams like frustrated babies either. The premise is that the only way to achieve a sane society with logical balances between technology and the natural world is by causing the present system to malfunction on such a grand level that people finally realize the errors of their ways. Yes, that sounds familiar, but here's how the "born again" environmentalist would go about it:

- Encourage the driving of gas-guzzling cars.
(Preferably ill-tuned) When filling your tank make sure you spill as much petrol as possible down the side of your car. Using up our oil is the first step toward sanity. The rallying cry "V-8, we don't hate" should be shouted at every cadillac. I'm not referring to tomato juice either.
 - Save whales and dolphins; collect valuable prizes.
That's the only thing Americans understand.
 - Nuke the baby seals.
It's a real world out there, tooth and fang. If you're going to worship solstices, why not start by sacrificing a few big horn rams or elk? Think of the press...
 - Encourage oil exploration.
Get it out of the way now, and allow the areas to heal.
 - Destroy the resource base.
When we're forced to change to a renewable system. Buy only plastic furniture. Encourage the consumption of metals. Titanium soft drink cans. Think of it this way: who supports recycling? Joe Coors, who else...
 - Support nuclear power.
For an energy free America. Who needs electricity when everything glows in the dark? Besides, an accidental meltdown killing about 200,000 people would go a long way to making people think. Cancer becomes fashionable. "Forget the coke baby. I've got some uncut U-32." Maybe the researchers would get off their regulated butts and cure cancer if the pressure was put on by enough cases.
 - Support government subsidies of pesticide programs.
 - Back the anti-abortion groups.
Only by encouraging a population growth that the system can't sustain can we hope to produce a breakdown in this wasteful structure. Bigger is better. The Penthouse mentality should be revived. At the grass roots level, the least you could do is punch a few holes in some condoms.
 - Use technology!
Set up a secret genetic engineering laboratory to clone wolves and grizzlies. Set the product loose in wilderness areas. Set them loose on the Boulder Ball. There's bound to be some wounding. "A mauling a day keeps the tourists away."
 - Give Wilderness areas to the Fortune 500 companies.
If you can afford the backpacking equipment you can afford the experience.
- Forget your cause to free the Colorado.
Umb. Do you know how ugly all that sandstone that's been underwater for all these years would look like if drained. Disgusting, stained, pissed on by everyone from Granby to Page. The Tidy Bowl National Monument. We support obscene illegal logging practices in all Colorado River drainages so that the dams silt up, fill up with organic debris. Moss and ferns grow on the dam face. One hundred years from now, there will be a beautiful waterfall.

So EARTH FIRST!, shape up. We hope you can learn from our little organization...let us know if we can be of any assistance.

Ft. Collins

WASTE THE HIGH COUNTRY



DULL KNIFE '81

WHAT YOU CAN DO AS AN EARTH FIRST!ER

We receive criticism every now and then for being more style than substance, for working people up to a fever pitch of emotion and then not giving them anything concrete to do. Well, in response to that we are going to produce a one page flyer on "What You can Do As An EARTH FIRST!er." If you have any ideas or suggestions -- or if you'd like to review the draft, contact Foreman.

COORS - YUK!

If you're from the West, you know two things: a cold Coors ain't worth a bucket of warm spit and Joe Coors is maybe the most anti-environmental SOB around (he's directly responsible for Rape n' Run Watt being Secretary of the Interior). So! it was with great pleasure to read in the July, 1981, DENVER MAGAZINE that Coors Beer is in deep financial trouble. Do your part to help! Don't buy it. "Coors. It ain't city beer. It ain't downstream beer. It actually ain't beer at all. It's Rocky Mountain poodle piss."

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GRAMMATICAL STYLE AND EARTH FIRST!

To be grammatically proper with our name, remember that the exclamation mark is part of it and that a period is still required when the ending of a sentence is EARTH FIRST!. Don't forget to capitalize...

Ed. Note: Foreman had some pretty stringent toilet training in early years.)

THE GREAT EARTH FIRST! ROAD SHOW RUMBLES ON...

In the last EF! Newsletter, we announced the Great EARTH FIRST! Road Show featuring stirring songs by Johnny Sagebrush (Bart Koehler) and inciting speeches by Dave Foreman (See Volume 1, Number 6, for details). Karen Tanner, 1640 Davidson, Reno, NV 89509, (702) 322-5215, will coordinate the Road Show, and all communication on it should go to her. If you would like to arrange an appearance by the EF! Road Show in your area, please contact Karen for organizing and publicity materials.

The Road Show will take place in September, October, and November. A rough schedule follows. Communities listed are in general chronological order of their place on the tour (though minor changes can be made). Sites listed are those with an appearance being planned or where there is a concentration of EF!ers. If the town is capitalized, this means that there is a local organizer (although additional help would be appreciated, we're sure). If the town is not capitalized, it means that there is no local organizer as yet, and we need one if the Road Show is to appear there. If your area does not appear on the rough schedule and you would like us to come, let us know. For volunteering any of this, contact Karen.

Sept 9-Oct 7: PORTLAND, CWC BURNS, BURNS, RENO, Davis/Sacramento, PALO ALTO, San Francisco, Marin County, Arcata, Eugene, SEATTLE, WALLA WALLA, BOISE, JACKSON, Lander, Helena, MISSOULA.

Oct 14-Oct 28: MAINE; CONNECTICUT; WASHINGTON, DC; STAUNTON, VA; Knoxville, LITTLE ROCK, DALLAS/FT. WORTH.

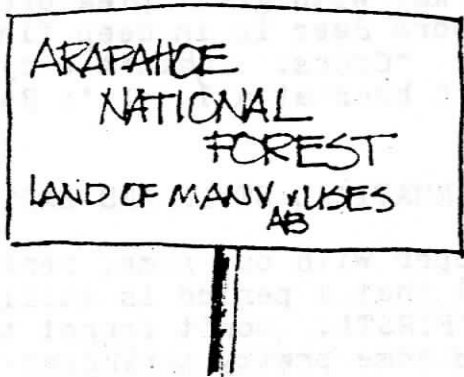
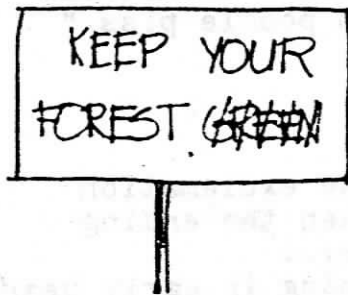
Nov 8-Nov 25: EL PASO, Albuquerque, Santa Fe, TELLURIDE, Grand Junction, Breckenridge, Denver, BOULDER, SALT LAKE CITY, MOAB, Flagstaff, Phoenix, Tucson, SILVER CITY.

Remember, we need local organizers for those areas that are not capitalized, help is needed for local organizers in those areas that are capitalized, and if your area is not listed and you want us to come, let us know. All contacts should be made with Karen. Please hurry so we can firm up our schedule and send promotional materials!

EF!ers in Oregon, Nevada, California, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, and Michigan will receive a final schedule for their area in the mail around September first. The final schedule for the rest of the country will be in the September 21 EF! Newsletter.

If you'd like to help in any way, donate money to start the tour, or get additional information, contact Karen.

See you on the Road!



EARTH FIRST! READING LIST

Don't forget the September PROGRESSIVE with Dave Foreman's article on the genesis and philosophy of EARTH FIRST!. The August, 1981, MOTHER JONES has an article on Rape n' Run Watt as does a recent PENTHOUSE. And the August PLAYBOY has two worthy articles on the enemy; an interview with George Gilder and an article on Jesse Helms and friends. CO-EVOLUTION QUARTERLY just ran a review of EF!. And the May 4, 1981, NEW YORKER, contains a lengthy and fine article on Watt.

NEWS CLIPPINGS, PHOTOGRAPHS

EARTH FIRST! is beginning to attract more and more media attention -- from major newspapers, local newspapers, alternative newspapers, and magazines. Please send any clippings you see which mention EARTH FIRST! to Dave Foreman or Susan Morgan.

EARTH FIRST! is trying to put together a simple slide show for the Road Show this fall. If you have slides of any EF! events (the Cracking of Glen Canyon Dam, the Sagebrush Patriot Rally, the Round River Rendezvous, local projects, etc.), please send them to Dave Foreman as soon as possible for inclusion in the slide show. Originals will be returned. We also are seeking black and white prints of the above events to make into displays for the Road Show. Please send such prints to Karen Tanner.

THIS GROUP IS SORTA SHIFTY

Logistically speaking, that is. Dave Foreman has a new telephone number: (505) 892-9789. His address remains 1802 Sun Court, Rio Rancho, NM 87124. You can contact him there until the first week of September. After that -- if you need to contact Dave or Bart Kohler, use c/o Karen Tanner, 1640 Davidson, Reno, NV 89509, (702) 322-5215, and the message will be forwarded on to wherever they are on the Road Show. All contacts with EF! concerning the Road Show (including great sums of \$\$\$ for it) should be sent to Karen.

Susan is moving to Seattle August 2. Please excuse any delay in answering all those cards and letters. As soon as she sets up her typewriter again, she'll get back with you. Should only be a couple of weeks...

THE REICHSTAG FIRE - 1933

EDITORIAL -- Dave Foreman

No doubt few EARTH FIRST!ers remember the night of February 27, 1933. On that night, ten Nazi agents under Karl Ernst and on orders from Joseph Goebbels set fire to the Reichstag (Parliament) building in Berlin. The fire was blamed on the communists and gave Hitler the pretext to establish his dictatorship.

On the night of July 3, 1981, while the EARTH FIRST! Round River Rendezvous was taking place on the banks of the Colorado River, a Utah Power and Light transmission tower carrying a 345,000 volt power line was toppled seven

miles south of Moab, just inside San Juan County. As might be expected, the sabotage has been blamed on environmentalists in general and on EARTH FIRST! in particular. The situation is reportedly tense in southeast Utah, and some threats have been made.

There are several things wrong with the ecotage theory, however. First -- all EFlers were getting drunk over thirty miles away. Second -- as an act of ecotage, it had no meaning or purpose. And finally -- cutting down a 345,000 volt power line with an ax is very risky business requiring someone who knows what he is doing...

While we do not see EFl allied with Marinus van der Lubbe and Georgi Dimitrov (accused reeds in the Reichstag fire) we certainly can see similarities between the Nazis and the dominant political establishment of southeastern Utah.

Here's a multiple-choice quiz on who the real power line culprits are:

- A. The San Juan County Commission
- B. Utah Power and Light
- C. Free-lance anti-environmental yahoos

Your choice.

Regardless, EARTH FIRST! must offer a tip of its hat to our worthy opponents. We still have a lot to learn about dirty politics from Cal Black and friends.

EARTH FIRST! ANNOUNCES "ECOTRICKS" CONTEST

As a service to, and an entertainment for, our readership (all eight of them) -- and to generally get the juices flowing, EARTH FIRST! is proud to announce our first annual "Ecotricks" contest.

An "Ecotrick" is any nonconventional means employed to protect the Earth Mother. It implies the use of superior wit and cunning in a form of psycho/political judo to render our/her opponents impotent...hopefully in the bedroom as well as in the arena of contest.

The definition is intentionally broad and vague to encompass as many approaches as possible. It can be a device or an action. It can be tried and true or a product of your wildest imaginings. It can be performed in actuality or merely fancitized about. It can be inspired or performed by various tricksters past/present: the Chicago Fox, the Yippies, the John Birch Society, Che, G. Gordon Liddy, Raven, Coyote, Radical Feminists, Geronimo, Victorio or your next door neighbor. It should not be too felonious because we need you out there being active.

Send descriptions of the "Ecotrick" along with pictures and descriptions of the aftermath (effect), if any, to:

Don Schwarzenegger, #3
P.O. Box 801
Silver City, NM 88061

The winner will be the recipient of a some expenses paid trip to Houston in August, 1982, to ply their trick(s). Agent provocateurs and their families are not eligible. All entries will be judged by parolled members of the "Plumbers."

RUMBLE

Time sifts its way
Mercilessly
Through the hourglass of existence
Experiences remain unexplored
Demons
Of the unknown are
Overwhelming
Much too ominous
To challenge
Pity those who's Faith
Is in limits
While the universe remains eternally
Boundless

Nature's power remains
Superior
Roar on Saint Helens
Your destruction humbles man-
Kind?
Just a few grasp
Harmony and Compassion
Essentials in a sensitive system

Understand shadows and light
The obvious is dull without depth
Shedding of skin
Refreshes, brightens -- but quickly
Atrophies
If not savoured
For each fleeting moment there is
Change
In flow, depth and perception
Like the river that
Sustains man
Where deeper truths scrape the rugged bottom
Pounding along just
Slow, just
Fast enough
For one to touch, not
Grasp.

Anne Lindblad

Be not afraid of the universe

Sila
(Eskimo unknown. god)